

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9-11, 19 and 20 are independent. Claims 1-16 and 18-20 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

The Title is hereby amended.

Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 13, 19, and 20 were objected to on formal grounds. These claims have been amended, thereby obviating the objections.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,345,288 to Reed et al. (hereinafter, merely “Reed”).

Amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A network management server connected to a network, comprising:

recording means for recording information pertinent to an information processing apparatus, said information includes at

least identification information of said information processing apparatus;

receiving means for receiving identification information sent from said information processing apparatus, when said information processing apparatus is connected via said network, the identification information used to identify said information processing apparatus;" (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Reed relates to an automated communications system which operates to transfer data, metadata and methods from a provider computer to a consumer computer through a communications network. The transferred information controls the communications relationship, including responses by the consumer computer, updating of information, and processes for future communications. Information which changes in the provider computer is automatically updated in the consumer computer through the communications system in order to maintain continuity of the relationship. A combination of the provider and consumer programs and databases allows for additional functionality, including coordination of multiple users for a single database.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Reed that would teach or suggest the features of amended claim 1. Specifically, Reed does not teach or suggest a network management server connected to a network comprising, recording means for recording information pertinent to an information processing apparatus, said information includes at least identification information of said information processing apparatus, receiving means for receiving identification information sent from said information processing apparatus, when said information processing apparatus is connected via said network, the identification information used to identify said information processing apparatus, as recited in amended claim 1.

Indeed, as understood by applicants, Reed relates to a communications control system in which software programs being executed by a provider computer, a consumer

computer and a distribution server communicate directly in order to maintain a communications control structure. Changes to the structure on the provider computer result in an updated version being transferred to the consumer computer.

Applicants submit that the communications control system described in Reed is distinguished from claim 1.

Therefore Applicants submit claim 1 is patentable. For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 9-11, 19 and 20 are also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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